

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF POLICE

SPECIAL ORDER NO. 46

December 8, 2008

APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS ON SEPTEMBER 30, 2008

SUBJECT: INCIDENTS INVOLVING PERSONS SUSPECTED OF SUFFERING FROM
MENTAL ILLNESS FIELD NOTEBOOK DIVIDER,
FORM 18.47.00 - ACTIVATED

PURPOSE: The Mental Evaluation Unit (MEU), Detective Support
and Vice Division, has developed procedural guidelines to
better assist officers with handling persons suspected of suffering
from mental illness. This Order activates the Incidents Involving
Persons Suspected of Suffering from Mental Illness Field Notebook
Divider, Form 18.47.00, which outlines Department procedures for
dealing with persons suspected of suffering from mental illness.

PROCEDURE: INCIDENTS INVOLVING PERSONS SUSPECTED OF SUFFERING
FROM MENTAL ILLNESS FIELD NOTEBOOK DIVIDER,
FORM 18.47.00 - ACTIVATED. The Incidents Involving Persons
Suspected of Suffering from Mental Illness Field Notebook Divider is
to be used as a reference document only and is intended to assist
and guide officers in dealing with persons suspected of suffering
from mental illness.

FORM AVAILABILITY: The Incidents Involving Persons Suspected of
Suffering from Mental Illness Field Notebook Divider is available in
LAPDFORMS on the Department Local Area Network and will be available
for ordering from the Distribution Center, Department of General
Services, in approximately 90 days. A copy is attached for
duplication as needed.

AMENDMENTS: This Order adds Section 5/18.47.00 to the
Department Manual.

AUDIT RESPONSIBILITY: The Commanding Officer, Detective Support and
Vice Division, shall monitor compliance with this directive in
accordance with Department Manual Section 0/080.30.


WILLIAM J. BRATTON
Chief of Police

Attachments

DISTRIBUTION "A"

INCIDENTS INVOLVING PERSONS SUSPECTED OF SUFFERING FROM MENTAL ILLNESS

The purpose of this Field Notebook Divider is to summarize general guidelines when dealing with a person suspected of suffering from a mental illness.

5150 Welfare and Institutions Code (WIC)

An Application for a 72- hour Detention for Evaluation and Treatment may be initiated when an officer conducts an assessment of a person believed to be suffering from a mental illness and that officer concludes that there is **probable cause to believe** that any or all of the following conditions exist:

1. **DANGER TO SELF: Due to a mental disorder**, a person has threatened, attempted, or does physical harm to themselves, or has engaged in behavior, which deliberately or otherwise, has a likely consequence to cause harm to themselves.
2. **DANGER TO OTHERS: Due to a mental disorder**, a person has threatened, attempted, or does harm to others, or has engaged in behavior, which deliberately or otherwise, has a likely consequence to harm others.
3. **GRAVELY DISABLED: Due to a mental disorder**, the person is unable to appropriately provide basic personal needs such as food, clothing, or shelter. This inability must be due to a mental disorder and not merely a lifestyle or personal choice.

NOTE: Section 5585 WIC is used for juveniles.

Conducting an Assessment

In order to determine if a person meets the criteria for an application for an evaluation pursuant to 5150 or 5585 WIC, officers should conduct an assessment of the individual. Questions should be clear, concise, and asked in a calm, non-threatening manner. Officers should take into consideration medications, or lack thereof, when conducting an assessment.

5150.05 WIC Available and Relevant Information

When determining if probable cause exists to take a person into custody pursuant to 5150 or 5585 WIC, officers shall consider available relevant information from any mental health provider, or other credible person, including family members or witnesses. The subject's prior mental health history may be taken into consideration, however, it solely would not merit a subsequent involuntary psychiatric hospitalization.

When conducting an assessment of a person suspected of suffering from a mental illness, officers should ask any relevant questions to determine if an application for an evaluation should be initiated. The following suggested questions are provided as a guideline:

- ☐ How are you feeling today?
- ☐ Are you taking any medications? Are you still taking them and what are they? Inspect the medication.
- ☐ Are you hearing voices others can't hear? If so, what are the voices saying to you?
- ☐ Do you want to hurt or kill yourself or someone else?
- ☐ Do you have a history of mental illness? If so, name the clinic or hospital where services have been obtained.
- ☐ Have you ever been admitted into a psychiatric hospital or have you ever been hospitalized for a psychiatric reason?
- ☐ Why were the police called today?
- ☐ How do you care for yourself? (Such as lodging, income, work)
- ☐ Do you have a doctor, counselor, or therapist? (What is his/her name?)
- ☐ What do you plan to do when/if we leave?
- ☐ How is your sleep? How many hours do you sleep?
- ☐ Do you take street drugs? (If yes, what type?)
- ☐ Have you recently suffered a traumatic episode?
- ☐ Have you threatened or attempted to use violence or acted dangerously towards yourself or others?
- ☐ Do you have any family history of mental illness, or suicide attempts?

Field Encounters

- ☐ **Control and assess the situation**
- ☐ **Officers should handcuff the subject.**
LAPD Manual Section 4/217.36
- ☐ Complete the field interview card.
- ☐ Conduct a Want and Warrant check.
- ☐ Check the AFS (NECS system) for firearms.
- ☐ Interview family, neighbors, and witnesses.
- ☐ Interview the subject.
- ☐ **Notify the MEU at (213) 485-3300.**
- ☐ A SMART Unit will be dispatched if available.
- ☐ If NOT AVAILABLE, a MAC Number will be issued.
- ☐ Complete the Application for 72-hour detention for Evaluation and Treatment Form (MH 302).
- ☐ Transport the subject to the designated facility.
- ☐ Fax and gray mail (Mail Stop 1011) a copy of the completed Application Form to MEU at (213) 485-3431.

TELEPHONE NUMBERS FOR POLICE USE ONLY

LAPD MEU/SMART (213) 485-3300	MEU FAX (213) 485-3431	
LASD Inmate Reception Center (IRC) (213) 893-5324	LASD Century Regional Detention Facility (CDRF) (323) 568-4506	
Harbor UCLA Medical Center	1000 West Carson Street, Torrance, CA	Psychiatric ER (310) 222-3510
LA County USC Medical Center	200 North State Street, Los Angeles, CA	Psychiatric ER (310) 226-5581
Olive View Medical Center	1445 Olive View Drive, Sylmar, CA	Psychiatric ER (818) 364-4340

INCIDENTS INVOLVING PERSONS SUSPECTED OF SUFFERING FROM MENTAL ILLNESS

Arrest and Booking

When a subject is a suspect in a felony crime or high-grade misdemeanor, or the subject has warrants, the criminal matters shall take precedence. The booking for misdemeanor warrants is at the discretion of the Area watch commander. Arrestees suffering from mental illness may be booked at any LAPD jail facility. Brief information concerning the mental illness should be documented in any booking reports and under the Additional Information heading in the Incident or Arrest Report. MEU is available for advice and assistance in facilitating the transfer of the subject to an LA County Jail Facility. Any questions concerning the arrest, booking, housing, or transfer of an individual suspected of suffering from a mental illness should be directed to the MEU Watch Commander at (213) 485-3300.

Notifications

When the only reason for detention is the person's suspected mental illness, MEU **SHALL** be contacted **PRIOR** to transporting an apparently mentally ill person to any health facility or hospital.

Exception: In those situations where the subject is injured and requires immediate medical treatment, MEU shall be contacted after the subject is transported to an appropriate medical facility.

When a person with suspected mental illness has been taken into custody for a criminal offense, MEU **SHALL** be contacted **PRIOR** to the person being booked (Special Order No. 10, dated May 17, 2005).

Officers who receive information from a mental health professional regarding a potential threat to any person (Tarasoff Notification) shall immediately notify MEU.

Hospital or Psychiatric Facility Patients

When a LAFD RA unit has transported a person to a medical facility for medical reasons due to a suicide attempt, officers are required to respond to the hospital and conduct an investigation. Officers should also advise the paramedics and the hospital staff that the subject requires a psychiatric evaluation by the hospital mental health staff or LA County Psychiatric Mental Response Team (PMRT). Officers are not required to remain with the subject until the subject is medically cleared. Officers may be advised by MEU to complete an application for an evaluation.

If a mentally ill person is a patient at any hospital, or secure facility, officers should not remove the subject from that facility. It is the facility staff's responsibility to arrange for proper security and care for any patient in their facility. Officers may contact MEU for advice.

Mandatory Confiscation and Custody of Firearms or Other Dangerous Weapons

Whenever a person who has been detained or apprehended for examination of his or her mental condition, or who is a person described in Sections 8100 or 8103 WIC, is found to own, have in his or her possession, or under his or her control, any firearm whatsoever, or any other deadly weapon, the firearm or other deadly weapon shall be confiscated by any law enforcement agency or peace officer, who shall retain custody of the firearm or other deadly weapon. "Deadly weapon," as used in this section is described in Section 8100 WIC. A Receipt, LAPD Receipt for Property Taken Into Custody, Form 10.10.00, shall be issued for any weapons confiscated. A copy of any reports associated with the confiscation should be sent to the MEU/CAMP Unit, Stop No. 1011, as soon as possible.

Referrals

When a person does not meet criteria for 5150 WIC, consider providing referral information to the subject and his/her family. If the subject voluntarily wants to receive treatment, refer the subject to a psychiatric ER facility or urgent care center. These locations can be obtained from MEU.

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| <input type="checkbox"/> LA County Mental Health Health/Crisis Help Line (800) 854-7771 | <input type="checkbox"/> Autism Society of America (562) 804-5556 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mayor Crisis Response Team (213) 978-0697 | <input type="checkbox"/> Alzheimer's Safe Return (888) 572-8566 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> LA County Suicide Prevention and Survivor Hotline (877) 727-4747 | <input type="checkbox"/> Child Abuse Hotline (800) 540-4000 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Alzheimer's Association Help Line (800) 660-1993 | <input type="checkbox"/> Elder Abuse Hotline (800) 992-1660 |

Critical Incidents

MEU should be contacted by the first responding unit to a critical incident such as possible barricade, jumper, or other crisis where the psychological status of a subject, witness, or other involved person may be in question. Be prepared to give the MEU Desk the following information if available:

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| <input type="checkbox"/> Synopsis of situation. | <input type="checkbox"/> From what direction should the SMART/CAMP team respond? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Subject's information, if known. | <input type="checkbox"/> Has Metropolitan Division been contacted? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Number of involved persons. | <input type="checkbox"/> *Are they responding? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Command post location and telephone number, if available. | <input type="checkbox"/> Has Behavioral Science Services been notified? |